

Fostering Stewardship in Managing Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in the Lens of Green Criminology

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Abstract

Illegal fishing contributes to the overexploitation of ecosystems and is a major issue and threat in the Gulf. This descriptive-qualitative study aimed at looking into fostering stewardship in managing fisheries and aquatic resources through the lens of green criminology and using the purposive sampling method. The researcher interviewed four groups of participants represented by Police officers (Bantay Dagat), BFAR representatives, Barangay Officials, and Fisherfolks. The study revolved around three main thrusts: (1) common law violations relative to the fishery and aquatic resources law violations; (2) the reasons/motivational factors of engaging in the fishery and aquatic resources law violations; and (3) measures on how the community can foster stewardship in managing fisheries and aquatic resources. The findings proved that the illegal fishing activities in municipal waters and marine protected areas were done for higher income and economic sustenance but posed various threats to the sustainability of aquatic and fishery resources and the environment in Leyte Gulf. The study also found that the community can foster stewardship through participatory enforcement of aquatic and fishery laws and programs and the provisions of equipment and resources needed for more effective patrol and surveillance of marine waters to prevent and combat illegal fishing.

Keywords: Green Criminology, Illegal Fishing, Stewardship, Leyte Gulf, Philippines